

British diplomat in Tehran

TEHRAN (AP) — British diplomat David Reddaway expects to meet with Iranian officials Saturday to discuss British and other foreign hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian groups. Reddaway, arriving here Friday for what he said was a two-week stay, would not say which officials he planned to see. The state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Reddaway would hold talks on "mutual relations" during his stay in the Iranian capital. It did not elaborate, but before leaving London Reddaway said he would speak with officials about the 18 hostages, who include Anglican envoy Terry Waite and two other Britons. "I think it is bound to help," Reddaway said at Heathrow airport when asked what he hoped to achieve from his visit. "The main thing I will be able to do is to remind the Iranian government... that we would hope that any government that could influence people holding hostages would do so." Several of the missing foreigners in Lebanon, including the three Britons, are believed to be held by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah group.

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جريدة الأردن تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Soviet hijackers charged

MOSCOW (R) — Two surviving members of a Siberian family of musicians who hijacked a Soviet plane have been charged with terrorism and will stand trial next month, a newspaper said Friday. The government newspaper Izvestia said Olga and Igor Ovezkin had also been charged with hijacking involving the deaths of people and attempting to cross the border illegally. It said their trial would open on Sept. 6 in the family's home town of Irkutsk, where the hijacked flight originated. Nine people died in a gun battle between the Ovezkins and security forces who stormed the hijacked Tupolev-154 after it landed at a military airfield near Leningrad March 8. "Yes, only two people from the whole group will face the court," Izvestia said. "The others, as is known, committed suicide. The young children who were with the criminals at the time will not be charged." All but one of the 12 Ovezkins were on the plane when two brothers pulled shotguns from an instrument case somewhere over the Urals and demanded to be flown to London.

AROUND THE WORLD...

Reagan sends message to Gorbachev

MOSCOW (AP) — U.S. Ambassador Jack Matlock Friday gave a top Soviet official a letter from President Ronald Reagan to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that reportedly focused on missile treaty talks. A Western official, speaking to reporters on condition he not be identified by name or country, said that after handing over the letter, Matlock and Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov discussed the talks on the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty. The official hinted that the letter also concerned the talks, scheduled to start Aug. 24 in Geneva. The official was familiar with the meeting and the contents of the letter. TASS reported that Matlock had delivered a letter to Vorontsov from Reagan and said they discussed "limiting nuclear and space arms, building on the talks held during the Moscow summit meeting."

Quakes shake southern Iranian cities

NICOSIA (R) — Earthquakes measuring up to 6.2 on the Richter scale hit the Gulf port of Bushehr and the city of Shiraz in southern Iran Thursday, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Friday. The agency made no mention of any casualties or damage.

Protesters march to Clark air base

ANGELES, The Philippines (AP) — About 2,000 students and some Roman Catholic nuns marched to an American air base Friday for a rally demanding the closure of U.S. military facilities in the Philippines. About 120 Filipino riot police guarded the main gate to Clark air base as the protesters chanted slogans. A similar protest was planned Saturday outside Subic bay naval base, 50 kilometers southwest of Angeles. President Corazon Aquino is under growing pressure not to renew the 1947 bases agreement. U.S. and Filipino panels have been negotiating here for more than four months on terms that should apply during the agreement's last two years.

Evren gives okay for referendum

ANKARA (AP) — President Kenan Evren Friday approved a constitutional amendment designed to allow earlier municipal elections, opening the way for a national referendum. The amendment was approved 284 to 95 in the 450-seat legislature a week ago. Only the ruling Motherland Party voted for the change. The amendment calls for local elections nationwide on Nov. 13 and says local elections in the future can be moved ahead by as much as a year. But a constitutional amendment has to be submitted to a national referendum if adopted by less than 300 votes in parliament. The referendum is expected to take place Sept. 25.

S. Asian summit switched to Pakistan

KATHMANDU (R) — Heads of state or government of seven South Asian nations are to meet in December in Pakistan instead of Sri Lanka because of the security situation on the island. Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya told reporters Friday the Colombo government had asked the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to change the venue. The shift was widely predicted because of the difficulty of ensuring the safety of the South Asian leaders including Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

British scientists fly to Moscow

LONDON (AP) — Two British scientists travelled Friday to the Soviet Union to set up the only independent, foreign-run seismic station to monitor Soviet nuclear tests. Jonathan Doody and Paul Coward plan to set up the station at Garm near the Afghan border, 1,280 kilometers south of the main Soviet nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk, said Andrew Parker, a scientist who works with Coward at Leicester University in England. Doody works at Glasgow University in Scotland. The researchers hope their tests will help bring about a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty by proving that it is possible to monitor even small nuclear explosions, said Parker.

Boy penetrates Israeli defences to Syria

TEL AVIV (R) — A 14-year-old Druze boy frightened by his brother fled to Syria across complex Israeli defences on the occupied Golan Heights before being captured and returned by Syrian soldiers, Israeli sources said Thursday. The Israeli sources said the boy, from the Golan Heights village of Buq'ata, ran away from home because the brother threatened to kill him for allowing some cows to escape while he was tending the family herd. Syrian soldiers questioned the boy for two days before turning him over to Israeli troops. The Israelis questioned him briefly before returning him to his family.

U.N. official to see Somalis' plight

GENEVA (R) — The number of refugees fleeing from northern Somalia to Ethiopia has reached 300,000, and a top U.N. official is travelling to the area this weekend to assess how to cope with their needs, a U.N. spokesman said Friday. Arthur Dewey, deputy U.N. high commissioner for refugees (UNHCR), will fly from Geneva to make an urgent on-the-spot assessment, the spokesman said. UNHCR officials said last month some 3,000 people were crossing the border daily from Somalia to Ethiopia to escape fighting between rebels and Somali government troops.

Liberian coup suspect 'jumped to death'

MONROVIA (R) — A suspected coup plotter being questioned by President Samuel Doe leaped to his death from a sixth-floor window at the presidential palace in March, according to testimony at a Liberian treason trial. Sarah Lawrence, a girlfriend of the dead suspect, Joseph Robert Kaipayee, said she was listening to the questioning from behind a curtain in a palace interrogation room when she heard Doe cry out: "You all — catch that man." Lawrence testified Thursday as the first witness in the trial of 10 men charged with plotting to kill Doe. She said soldiers went downstairs to investigate and she later saw Kaipayee's body on the ground. The prosecution says Kaipayee was among organizers of a plot to take over the government of Liberia.

Iraq reopens trade centre in Dubai

DUBAI (R) — Iraq is reopening its trade centre in Dubai, closed three years ago after a series of Iranian attacks on ships in the Gulf, an Iraqi embassy official said Friday. He said the centre was resuming its activities as the Gulf war ceasefire set for Aug. 20 was expected to enable Iraqi-flag vessels to sail through the Gulf for the first time since the war broke out eight years ago. Dubai's reexports to Iraq were worth 42 million dirhams (\$11 million) in 1987 compared with its reexports to Iran of 1.3 billion dirhams (\$354 million).

Bomb blast on bus kills 8 in N. India

HANDIGARH (R) — Eight people were killed when a bomb planted by Sikh extremists exploded on a bus just outside this north Indian city Friday, police said. They said 27 people were injured when the time bomb went off half an hour after the bus left Handigarh, joint capital of Punjab and Haryana states. Two of the victims were decapitated by the powerful blast which ripped through the roof of the bus, reports said.

Jordan, PLO open talks in positive spirit

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Friday opened talks described as "smooth, honest and brotherly" on the Kingdom's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

It was the first meeting between the two sides after His Majesty King Hussein announced that Jordan was severing formal links with the West Bank to make room for the PLO to assume its responsibilities as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Friday's talks went "smoothly, in an atmosphere of honesty and brotherly feelings," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The Jordanian side to the meeting was headed by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and included Interior Minister Rajai Dajani, Information Minister Hani Khasawneh and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Fayed Tarawneh while the PLO side was headed by Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas and included

executive committee members Abdulla Hourani, Abdul Razak Al Yahya and Mohammad Milhem in addition to Hani Al Hassan, an advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Khasawneh told reporters the three-and-a-half hour meeting, held at the Prime Ministry, covered "issues of mutual concern in a very constructive and positive atmosphere."

A senior PLO official told the Jordan Times that the talks centred on "Jordanian-Palestinian relations in light of the Kingdom's recent decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank."

He also said the talks covered proposals for a Palestinian government-in-exile, which is under discussion within the PLO itself.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas head Jordan PLO talks which opened in Amman Friday (Petra photo)

Khasawneh chides Qadhafi

AMMAN (J.T.) — Information Minister Hani Khasawneh has described as "unwise" an attack by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on Jordan and its leadership and called on the Libyan leader to try and understand what Arab unity means and how to address other Arab leaders.

Arafat, in his first media interview since the Kingdom announced its decision, has assured Palestinians living in the West Bank that "the PLO will be able to handle its responsibilities in the occupied territories."

(Continued on page 3)

Arab shot dead in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops killed one Palestinian and wounded another Friday after a trio of Palestinians allegedly attacked their patrol in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Friday's clash took place shortly after midnight in Gaza's Mughraq refugee camp, an army spokesman said. He said the dead man, Rad Suleiman Abu Mandil, 23, had participated in anti-Israeli protests and attacks on soldiers in the past.

The death brought to 251 the number of Palestinians killed since the Palestinian uprising began Dec. 8.

Israeli military officials who demanded anonymity said troops apparently caught the Palestinians by surprise as they were painting anti-Israeli slogans on camp walls.

They said Abu Mandil fled

from the army patrol after being wounded and may have bled to death. An autopsy was being conducted to determine the cause of death.

Troops also arrested the third member of the Palestinian group, the officials said.

On Thursday, a Jewish settler in the West Bank was charged with manslaughter for shooting a young Palestinian during protests near Jerusalem.

Pinhas Wallerstein, a 39-year-old settlement leader from Ofra, was the second settler to face charges over the killing of a Palestinian since the start of the uprising.

He and a bodyguard were riding in a car in Beita village near Jerusalem in January when they came across burning tyres placed by demonstrators who hurled stones. He gave chase and opened fire, killing Rabah Hus-

sein Ranam, 16.

Meanwhile, the leaders of Israel's two major political parties intensified debate on the future of the West Bank and Gaza after Jordan's decision to cut legal and administrative ties with the West Bank.

In an interview with armed forces radio, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel had to decide in the Nov. 1 elections to pursue peace before arguing about who the Arab partner would be.

"What does Israel want — to take a peace initiative or to sit idly and let the Arabs and the Russians at the whole world run our affairs? If we do not take the initiative — and that's actually what the Likud proposes — others will take it," warned Peres, the head of the Labour Party.

"I wish that Qadhafi would learn through the years what unwise actions mean and how to address other Arab leaders."

He added that if anyone wanted to belittle what King Hussein achieved and what he offered "we say that it is enough for His Majesty the collective love of his people and his Armed Forces and the trust he has acquired all over the Arab World."

"I hope that God would enlighten Qadhafi and give him wisdom so that he would not reopen wounds and to allow the Arab World to live without those types of comments which have already bored the Arab Nation and do not serve its national problems," Khasawneh said.

The information minister explained that the measures adopted by Jordan concerning its employees in the West Bank and said: "The employees who have been retired or promised end-of-service compensation used to collect two wages, one from the Jordanian government and another from the Israeli occupation authorities."

He said King Hussein had contacted Arab countries and some foreign ones and called upon them to continue to support the sons and daughters of the Palestinian people living under occupation.

"This is the first time they have

"We are not here to set up buffer zones, just to report any violations and try to stop escalation," he said.

Iran denied Friday that it bombed Iraqi military positions with hundreds of shells and missiles after the start of an unofficial truce leading up to the ceasefire.

A spokesman for the war in formation headquarters in Tehran called Iraq's shelling claims "false propaganda," the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

Iran Thursday accused Iraq of shelling Iraqi military positions this week near the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

A fragile, unofficial truce had been in place since Monday,

when U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuello announced that Iran and Iraq agreed to observe a ceasefire to begin Aug. 20. Face-to-face talks were scheduled to begin five days later in Geneva.

The Iraqi mission to the U.N. said in a one-page statement Thursday that Iran's armed forces bombarded Iraqi military positions around the southern port of Basra with Howitzer and mortar shells and small missiles on Wednesday and Thursday.

It said Iran also bombarded Iraqi positions near the southern Al Faw Peninsula.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei contended Friday the ceasefire was a victory for Iran.

Cuba in Geneva last week to withdraw an estimated 2,000 men from Angola by Sept. 1.

When a ceasefire took effect Monday, South African troops were up to 300 kilometres inside Angola. Their withdrawal began Wednesday.

The agreement is linked to the withdrawal over a longer period of an estimated 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola and to plans for internationally supervised independence for Namibia.

Angola and Cuba have promised to agree a timetable for the Cuban pullout before Sept. 1.

Nuclear talks

In another development, the United States, the Soviet Union and Britain urged South Africa Friday to open its nuclear plants

S. Africa reinforces Namibia-Angola border

WINDHOEK, Namibia (R) — The South African army is reinforcing the northern border of Pretoria-ruled Namibia ahead of its promised withdrawal from Angola.

"As we said on Wednesday, the planning process is on the go and we will be out of Angola by Sept. 1," one official said.

South African military analyst De wet Potgieter said it would make sense to reinforce the border in the Ovamboland region because that was the main infiltration route used by the nationalist guerrillas of the South-West People's Organisation (SWAPO).

"I am sure they would also want to be prepared in case the Cubans come over the border," he said.

An army spokesman in Windhoek said he could not confirm or deny reports of military move-

ments in the region. Army spokesmen in Pretoria declined to comment on the military situation in Namibia and southern Angola.

"South Africa, which is not a signatory, has a top-secret plant capable of producing weapons-grade enriched uranium and many experts believe the country possesses nuclear weapons or can make them."

Sources in Termez said a Soviet unit which pulled out of Kabul this week had stopped pushing north when it reached the Kunduz airport to help Afghan government troops hold off the rebel offensive.

Soviet sources said street fighting broke out in Kunduz as a Soviet column of 62 vehicles moved towards the border.

On arrival in Termez, a border town in the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan, the troops were met by officials, U.N. observers and foreign journalists and feted at a welcome ceremony.

The official TASS news agency said the unit was one of the first to have entered the Afghan war after the Soviet Union intervened militarily in December 1979.

King, North Yemeni leader exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday received a telephone call from North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The two leaders exchanged views on a number of pan-Arab issues.

Jordan to airlift urgent aid to Sudan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Committee for Solidarity with Sudan held an emergency meeting Friday and discussed the situation in Sudan which is ravaged by unprecedented floods. The committee decided to urgently dispatch Jordanian medical teams and rescue and civil defence personnel to Sudan to help the Sudanese authorities in relief operations.

The committee also called on the citizens to continue their support for the Sudanese through making contributions, which could be sent to the committee at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

Floods cause untold damage in Khartoum

CAIRO (Agencies) — More than 83,000 houses have been destroyed in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, by floods caused by torrential rains that left 1.5 million people homeless, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

The Egyptian agency, in a report from Khartoum, quoted an unidentified Sudanese official.

The official's figure of 83,240 demolished houses in the Khartoum area alone was much higher than previous estimates which ranged between 10,000-40,000.

The new figure did not include the number of houses destroyed in eastern and northern areas of the country that were also ravaged by floods

Arab leaders congratulate King

AMMAN (Petra) — On the 36th anniversary of his accession to the throne, His Majesty King Hussein Friday continued to receive congratulatory cables. Among the cables arriving Friday were those sent by King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, Bahraini Emir Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and Prince Hamad Ibn Isa Al Khalifah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah, Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifah Ibn Salman Al Khalifah, member of the UAE supreme council and ruler of Al Fujairah Sheikh Hamad Ibn Mohammad Al Sharqi and Organisation of Islamic Conference Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirsada.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONDOLENCES: His Majesty King Hussein delegated Mohammad Hussein Al Shobaki, the governor of Karak, to convey his condolences to the Majali family on the death of Atallah Al Majali, member of the Court of Cessation.

HINDAWI RETURNS: Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Al Hindawi Friday returned to Amman at the conclusion of a several-day private visit to the United States.

SOMALI AIDE LEAVES: Somali Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Ali Hamed left Amman Friday at the end of a three-day visit during which he delivered a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Somali President Siad Barre. The minister was seen off at the airport by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Fayed Tarawneh and other officials from the Foreign Ministry. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the message dealt with means to boost bilateral relations and exchange of views about current Arab issues.

TAIBEH ELECTIONS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber has appointed the district governor of Taibeh in the Irbid Governorate as chairman of the municipal elections committee in the town. The minister announced that Nov. 19 will be the date for the local elections.

ZARQA MUNICIPALITY PROJECTS: Zarqa Municipality has embarked on building a cultural hall and Al Hashemieh multipurpose complex at the cost of JD 98,000. A municipality spokesman said that JD 60,000 have been allocated for reorganising the King Talal Street in the heart of Zarqa. These projects he said will be completed in five months.

2 killed, 3 injured in different incidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 15-year-old girl from Madaba district was admitted to hospital suffering from wounds sustained when a 16-year-old boy fired a stray bullet from a handgun and a child aged six was admitted to another hospital in Ghor Al Safi for treatment of wounds caused by a stray bullet fired by her sister, according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The paper also reported the death of Michael Habib, a 15-year-old Jordanian in a road accident involving two vehicles in Amman.

The report said that the accident was described as stable.

Jordan, PLO open talks

(Continued from page 1)
Arafat was quoted as saying by Saudi Arabia's Al Sharq Al Awsat that he was not informed of Jordan's decision before it was announced but "we have always lived up to our responsibilities with courage and we never ran away from them."

Asked whether the PLO had a department which could handle all the financial responsibilities of the occupied territories, Arafat said: "The structure of the PLO can absorb everything as long as there is continued funding."

"I assure my people in the occupied territories that we will carry all our responsibilities and I hope that my upcoming tour I will convince Arab countries to fulfil their pledges which were agreed upon in the Algiers summit," Arafat said.

Asked whether the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the proposed international conference was scrapped, Arafat said: "This idea has always been scrapped from our dictionary although Jordan continuously called for it... we have always said we accept a pan-Arab delegation or a joint delegation with Egypt... with Jordan no."

Asked how he evaluates Arab reactions to Jordan's move, Arafat said: "One has to read communiqué number 23 from the united leadership of the (Palestinian) uprising (in the occupied territories) ... our people in the occupied territories feel that one of the achievements of the uprising is centring Palestinian representation in the PLO."

The passport problem is definitely among the most important of our problems," Arafat said. He added that "Palestinians in Lebanon have a passport problem, also the ones in Syria, Gaza Strip and Egypt. Let all the Palestinians have the same problem."

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- * Photo exhibition at the University of Jordan.
- * Architectural exhibition at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.
- * Art exhibition: "Silent Nature" at the University of Jordan.

LECTURES

- * Lecture on "Child in the Arab Literature" by Rox Ibn Sa'id Al Uzaiqi. Abdun Hamid Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday inspects facilities and services of a joint medical complex at Disi in Southern Jordan (Petra photo)

Queen Noor inaugurates joint medical complex in Disi

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday inaugurated a joint medical complex at the town of Disi within the Oweira district of Aqaba and inspected facilities and services offered to the local inhabitants.

The complex serves some 5,000 residents from Disi and badia areas in southern Jordan, and offers, emergency, mother and child care, laboratory and general medical services, according to Health Ministry officials present at the inauguration ceremony.

The Queen toured the different

sections and was briefed on their work by the local doctors and officials.

At the outset of the ceremony Aqaba Region Authority Director Bassam Qaqish delivered a speech paying tribute to the Queen's concern over the health and living conditions of citizens.

He also praised the Health Ministry for its relentless efforts to provide primary health care services to the Jordanian citizens in urban, rural and badia regions.

Another speaker was the district governor of Qweira, who

outlined development projects in health, agriculture, social services and other spheres which, he said, have been promoted by concerned government authorities over the years.

The district governor also outlined tourism projects at Wadi Rum, telecommunications networks, road, electricity and water projects being implemented in his area.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh was among the audience attending the opening ceremony.

Ramtha seeks to exploit Pilgrims' City for economic, cultural activities

RAMTHA (Petra) — The Department of Education in Ramtha is seeking to exploit a permanent site for pilgrims near Ramtha for the benefit of scouts and student activities and also as an open market ground for merchants.

The Education Department director here, Ahmad Alawneh, said the site could be transformed into a useful ground for organising economic, cultural and social activity benefiting the whole Ramtha region, and also serving the needs of pilgrims at the same time.

Alawneh was making remarks to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, whose correspondent carried out an extensive survey of the site and interviewed officials of concerned authorities in Ramtha.

The Pilgrims City, set up on a 48-piece of land, was designed to house pilgrims during the pilgrimage season especially when Muslims from Syria, Turkey and Iran cross into Jordan from Syria on their way to the holy places in Mecca and Medina.

Nearly 70 per cent of the proceeds of the Pilgrims City benefits Ramtha municipality projects, according to municipal officials.

They said that between 50,000 and 60,000 Muslims used to converge on the city during the pilgrimage season, but now an estimated 5,000 pilgrims can be expected to visit it during the annual season for a few weeks, thus drastically reducing revenues for the municipality.

Alawneh told the agency that students and scouts, recruited by the Department of Education, can carry out cultural and recreational activities on the site, part of which can be exploited by local merchants in an open market to be set up on a permanent basis.

The director of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Department here, Ammar Al Khatib, said it is true that the number of pilgrims had diminished due to a change of communications arrangements by Muslim countries. But he contended that the Pilgrims City should be exploited as a cultural centre to train preachers for mosques and to organise Islamic activities.

The president of the local Chamber of Commerce, Khalaf Bashabseh, said that he was willing to enlist the help of local merchants to establish a project at the Pilgrims City that would serve all purposes, and at the same time ensure proper profits and revenues for the municipality and the Awqaf Department.

A panoramic view of Yarmouk University

Yarmouk begins 1st stage of residential quarters project

IRBID (Petra, J.T.) — Yarmouk University has embarked on the first stage of a project to provide appropriate residential quarters for its male students and members of the teaching staff.

An announcement made Friday said that at least JD 4.4 million will be spent on constructing living quarters for at least 1,200 students in addition to 40 flats for the teachers and 28 studios for the benefit of post graduate students.

According to the announcement, the project, which is to take at least two years to complete, will be set up on 40,000 square metres and will have adjoining services and a number of external yards.

It said that the Engineering Faculty, in cooperation with the university's Projects Department, prepared the designs for the project and the final plans for construction work.

Once completed, the residential quarter will accommodate no less than 50 per cent of the overall number of male students, according to the announcement.

The engineering faculty had earlier supervised the construction of the university's infrastructure and the Engineering Faculty buildings which served as a nucleus for the university, and is now supervising the construction of the Medical Sciences Faculty buildings due to be completed by late 1990, the announcement added.

It said that the medical sciences buildings, being built on 80,000 square metres, are expected to cost at a total of JD 14 million and will house four branches of the medical profession: medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and nursing, together with their laboratories and other utilities.

The announcement Friday said that a Yarmouk University annex project at the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid is now nearing completion.

It said that the JD 140,000 annex will have sufficient lecture halls for medical students.

Last January, Yarmouk University awarded a contract to a local company for the construction of a residential quarter for female students at the cost of JD 4.4 million.

The project, to be completed by the end of 1989, entails constructing eight buildings and their utilities, together with courts for sports activities, such as volleyball, basketball, tennis and other facilities.

Work on the medical sciences buildings had started in January 1988, according to Yarmouk University officials.

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It said that the JD 140,000 annex will have sufficient lecture halls for medical students.

National Aid Fund adds 237 needy families on list

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) last month added 237 needy families to a list of those receiving monthly financial assistance, receiving a total off JD 4,672 a month according to NAF's Director General Khalil Al Faouri.

Faouri said in a statement released by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Friday that NAF teams added a total of 1,118 families to the fund's list of needy people over the past seven years, entitling them to monthly assistance which according to Faouri totalled JD 21,492 between January and July of 1988.

Faouri said in a statement released by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Friday that NAF teams added a total of 1,118 families to the fund's list of needy people over the past seven years, entitling them to monthly assistance which according to Faouri totalled JD 21,492 between January and July of 1988.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: 36th anniversary

JORDANIANS Thursday celebrated with deep pride, faith and confidence the 36th anniversary of King Hussein's accession to the throne. In celebrating the occasion, the Jordanian people felt more closely bound to their leader with unity and great aspirations and hopes for the future. The accession to the throne anniversary marks, in reality, the beginning of struggle for the King and his people against all the challenges and obstacles in the path of Jordan's progress. The King has proved in word and deed his great ability and skill as leader of his nation in guiding his people towards development and towards enhancing the principles of democracy and strengthening Arab culture and Arab heritage. At the same time, the monarch has been successful in bolstering Jordan's ties with all Arab states, and provided further impetus to the Arabs to bolster their solidarity in the face of common enemies. The King offered great sacrifices and exerted efforts at the domestic, pan-Arab and international fronts and he continues to pledge support for the Palestinian people regardless of the relations with the PLO and the recent decisions concerning the West Bank.

Al Dustour: Fruitful cooperation

JORDAN looks to the Jordanian-PLO talks in Amman with hope that they will contribute to the enhancement of the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the face of Israeli occupation rule. Jordan, which is concerned with the future and destiny of the Palestinians, and the PLO, which is now embarking on its responsibilities towards their brothers and sisters in the occupied lands, will no doubt discuss means of helping the oppressed people in their struggle to abort enemy plans in Palestine. The PLO leaders, who had been making statements voicing support for the Jordanian measures concerning the West Bank, are now expected to live up to expectations to come up with plans to bolster the steadfastness of the people of Palestine and shoulder all responsibilities concerning their brothers under Israeli rule. Jordan's decision was irrevocable, and was clearly designed to help the PLO's endeavours. This decision is bound to force Israel to deal directly with the Palestinians and to face the facts and realities. But, it is hoped that the PLO will take proper measures to help in the process of safeguarding Palestinian interests. Let us hope the talks in Amman will pave the way for fruitful PLO-Jordanian cooperation in the service of national goals.

Sawt Al Shaab: Improper behaviour

JORDAN welcomes the Libyan leader's offer to extend financial assistance to the Palestinian people, since, after all, this is a pan-Arab responsibility to assist Arab brothers in need. Indeed, Libya along with other Arab countries is bound to extend help to the Palestinians in implementation of Arab summit resolutions. But, it must be said that Qaddafi should have thanked King Hussein for Jordan's continued assistance to the Palestinian people throughout the past 20 years of occupation, something done as an expression of a national commitment towards the Arab people under occupation rule. Jordan, which took a decision to sever its legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, is honouring its commitments to the Palestinians and will be paying remuneration to the West Bank employees, in another manifestation of its determination to continue its assistance to the oppressed people of Palestine. But, it is not proper from the Libyan colonel to attack Jordan, claiming that King Hussein had done nothing for the Palestinian people. Qaddafi realises too well the sacrifices of the Hashemite family for safeguarding Palestinian rights and defending Palestine soil. Ever since the 1967 occupation Jordan had served as a haven for the displaced Palestinians and will continue to offer all possible assistance to Palestinian brothers.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Boosting steadfastness

JORDAN has more than once affirmed its total commitment to national causes regardless of the recent measures concerning the West Bank which came in response to the desires of the PLO and the Arab countries. Jordan has reiterated that the new measures of severing ties with the West Bank were designed as a means of boosting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative. But, Jordan has all along made it clear to the world that it will never shirk its responsibilities towards its brothers in the occupied homeland under a pan-Arab umbrella and in cooperation with the PLO and with all possible means available to it. Having taken this honourable stand, Jordan's conscience is not disturbed at all, and can never be upset by rumours and interpretations which contradict the facts. At the same time, Jordan will never allow evil elements to tamper with the unity of the Jordanian family and can by no means allow any hostile elements to infiltrate the ranks of the Jordanian people. The Jordanian decisions as King Hussein said are irrevocable; and the Kingdom's stand is as firm as ever in serving as a shield to defend the Arabs and to help the Palestinians attain their national objectives.

Al Dustour: Great achievements

JORDANIANS rejoiced Thursday on the 36th anniversary of King Hussein's accession to the throne, praising the Kingdom's leadership under the standards of the Great Arab Revolt. As we all celebrate the occasion in the rural, urban and badin regions, we remember with pride and with confidence the great achievements realised by this country under the King's wise leadership, something which prompts us to increase our confidence in the Hashemite leadership and corroborates our allegiance to the throne. The Jordanian family realises too well that the great achievements and accomplishments of this country were not only carried out under King Hussein's reign but were all connected with his name and the Hashemite family from whom he inherited the principles and the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt. Over the past 36 years King Hussein was the ideal leader of his country, and one who confronted and overcame the challenges and obstacles that stood in the way of the Kingdom's progress. On the domestic, international and regional fronts, King Hussein spared no effort in seeking justice for Arab causes and further prosperity for his people.

Marwan Muasher

Time for Jordanians to voice their opinion

IT IS difficult in light of Jordan's decision last week to sever all legal and administrative ties with the West Bank to keep silent about the issue. We cannot ignore the issue in the media, or speak about it in murky terms.

What happened last week will affect Jordan for a long time. Whether it is called separation or reorganisation of the relationship that exists between Palestinians and Jordanians, the need has never been more apparent for a national dialogue on the subject. And if we cannot totally explore the opinions of citizens in the West Bank, it is the duty of all Jordanians living here, whether of East Bank, West Bank or whatever other origin, to voice their opinion. We owe it to ourselves to be involved in a process of a national dialogue.

This is of extreme importance to the country. The relationship that exists between Jordanians and Palestinians far exceeds that of a political one. Our social fabric is made out of this relationship, and this fabric cannot be easily, if at all, disintegrated.

I, therefore, want to voice my opinion, not because it affects things, but because I believe the opinion of the average Jordanian should matter.

Jordan's decision is understandable in many respects. It comes in response to the PLO's and the Arab states' desire to highlight and enhance the Palestinian identity. The situation, however, especially to the average Jordanian citizen living in Jordan is not that simple. For one thing, the average Arab citizen always yearned for Arab unity. Even more particularly, the average Jordanian citizen has lived a successful example of this unity which, though at times tense and uneasy, has largely worked. We, in Jordan, know this fact, whereas Arabs living elsewhere might not. It is thus not easy after 38 years of intermarriage, interculture, interrelationship, to say that everything

is severed. The belief in, and dream for, Arab unity, has suffered a severe blow. The close relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians applies not only in the East Bank, but between the East Bank and the West Bank as well. As an average Jordanian, therefore, I care very much about this unity regardless of what the PLO or anyone else would have to say in this matter.

As an average Jordanian, I do not know all the facts. As an average Jordanian, I never did. But that should not be used as a convenient excuse, as many prominent Jordanians are doing, for not speaking out. The country needs the input of its citizens, and it needs it now. Silence about the issue can only mean approval in the present circumstances.

I do not suggest that Jordanians approve or disapprove of the recent measures. I merely state that they should make their opinions known. Mine is simple. I think the measures will not help regain the West Bank, which should be the major objective of all Arabs. I think they have hurt the cause of Arab unity, which we in Jordan are a living example of. I think they will add to the state of confusion of people living here despite assurances to the contrary. I therefore do not approve.

My opinion is not enough, however. In times like these, one expects people to speak out. Yet, hardly any member of the dissolved parliament has said anything. Hardly any elected union president has said anything. Hardly any politician has said anything. Hardly any intellectual, university professor, writer, citizen, has said anything.

Hopefully, I will be proved wrong, and Jordan's decision will come

to have a positive influence on the Palestinian problem. Even then, my worry which would still remain is our apparent inability to engage in a national dialogue and discuss our problems openly. If prominent citizens, politicians, elected leaders, opt not to voice their opinion, for or against the new measures, and offer their thoughts on a matter that affects Jordan's future to the largest possible extent, then how can 1 or any other citizen expect them to speak out about less important issues?

Now that the decision is taken, the question to ask, again for the average Jordanian, is how to make the best out of the present situation. Specifically:

- How to keep national unity among citizens of all origins in the East Bank. How to strengthen that unity, and how to alleviate all fears to the contrary.

- How to define the new relationship with the Palestinians in such a manner that would increase the chances of a peaceful settlement instead of the contrary.

- How to ensure that the dream of Arab unity is not aborted, that it is still achievable, especially for the two Arab peoples of Jordan and Palestine.

I believe that the coming talks between Jordan and the PLO should result in the declaration of a Palestinian state or a government-in-exile, with immediate confederation ties with Jordan. This will ensure the continuation of the unity between the two peoples, and would satisfy the Palestinian demands of highlighting the Palestinian identity. I sincerely believe such a step will be taken soon. Let us not go down in history as a nation which reacted to adversity by splitting, instead of uniting, its ranks.

OPEN FORUM

Children under occupation

They've been deprived of their human rights

Oh! look at those sights

Many are killed but most injured

They stand in front of the soldiers

Like gigantic boulders

They throw stones

And in exchange the Jews break bones

They also use sling shots

And many are taken to jail

I mean lots

When Arabs are taken to jail

Never their strength would fail

When the Jews take an Arab land

They don't give the real owner

A single speck of sand

The Arab's would like freedom

But when the Jews think of it it's only seldom

The Jews always set fire

And they march in full military attire

Let's all hope that peace would arrive

And for the good life each one would strive.

Yazann Ben Seif Ramahi

The writer is a 6th grader at the Amman Baccalaureate School, Amman.

Syria looks to nature for more energy

By Issam Hamza

Reuter

DAMASCUS — Syria is looking at ways to use the sun, the wind, and even farm manure, to boost its limited energy sources.

The government has set up a new department to examine renewable energy resources.

The department's director Dr. Mohamad Kordab told Reuters that Syria was determined to use its ample sunshine, brisk breezes and biological waste to reduce its dependence on oil and gas.

The equipment used was costly but Kordab said he was working on designing a cheaper system for wider use.

Homes and businesses used 35 per cent of the 7,000 million kWh of electricity Syria generated in 1986. Industry used 40 per cent.

Other studies would look at ways to use solar power for crop drying, heating greenhouses, desalination and generating electricity, Kordab said.

He said wind was another little-used energy source in which Syria was rich. A minimum wind speed of three metres per second (mps) is needed for practical use.

Meteorologists say winds of four mps blow across Syria at least half the year. In central regions around the city of Homs, they average six mps for 40 per cent of the year.

The government encourages local production of wind energy equipment which many farmers already use to pump water for drinking or irrigation, Kordab said.

A study he made for the United Nations revealed that gas produced biologically was a promising energy source for Syria.

The study showed 126 million cubic metres of gas could be produced annually, 40 per cent of it from animal waste and 30 per cent from cow pugil and from domestic waste.

He said such energy, to replace butane, was easily produced. Syria used 7.1 million tonnes of petroleum products in 1986.

Each household keeping animals or poultry could make fuel for lights, hot water and cooking using a simple bio-gas digester in which microbes produce gas by fermentation.

A philosopher hunts for active life

By Paul Ben-Itzak Reuter

SAN FRANCISCO — Bookcases where tracts by Kant and Nietzsche mingle with multiple copies of Dashiell Hammett's "The Maltese Falcon" give clues to the two lives of private eye

On the other hand, others have tried to prove that India always lacked cultural unity and is characterised by the presence of different nationalities.

If the purpose is to show that India is a unity one can easily point out that the elements of diversity and emphasise the integrative tendencies. Little useful purpose is likely to be served by debating in the abstract the proposition whether Indian society has historically been a unity or not. It would be infinitely more useful to analyse why Indian society is seen by some as lacking in cultural and

social unity and whether what are often seen as divisive tendencies in Indian public life are indeed such as to result in the country's disintegration.

India's Western critics from the very beginning contended that India was lacking in cultural unity and saw its bewildering social, cultural and religious diversity as clear evidence of its eventual fragmentation. They thought that unless India succeeded in forging a unified society through its own efforts, it would be unable to withstand the challenges of the outside world.

The anxious voice of these critics, foreign or native, is not entirely phoney. After all, the rise in recent times of sectarian movements which seek to promote the interest of one community or another is bound to create and sharpen sensibilities and anxieties about India's future as a united country.

However, the point that really deserves to be reflected upon is whether these sectarianism are likely to take the better of that basic feature of Indian society which still makes it a unity despite the persistence of cultural diversities within the society. Or, again, whether in suggesting that like the countries of contemporary Europe India should also engage in a conscious process of cultural homogenisation the critics are not really projecting Europe's present stage of development to its past and overlooking the troubled times through which that part of the world passed in order to reach its contemporary state?

Both these questions deserve to be carefully examined before a judgment on India's destiny as a compact nation is finally pronounced.

It is customary to characterise

Instead, he met Hal Lipset, a San Francisco Bay Area detective and one-time president of the World Society of Detectives, and took a five-dollar-an-hour surveillance job.

That job began a new life for Thompson, one he chronicles in the newly published "Gumshoe: Reflections in a Private Eye."

The book recounts his early education as a "P.I.", detailing investigations of murders, kidnappings, drug cases and blackmail schemes, as well as the mundane surveillance which takes up a good portion of a real-life detective's time.

Although Thompson, who doesn't carry a gun, has yet to be shot at, the succeeding cases taxed his wits to the utmost.

In one case, a homosexual businessman hired Thompson to uncover something incriminating about an ex-lover who was threatening him with a palimony suit.

Thompson's crucial was a kidnapping case that took him to

A man separated from his wife had spirited the couple's daughter back to his native India. A warrant had been issued for his arrest and it was up to Thompson to bring him in.

With the assistance of an intrepid Indian detective, Thompson lured father and daughter to a Bombay hotel with a bogus offer of employment. He caught him, tied him up and returned the daughter to the mother.

"Until I saw (the bullet hole),

I'd been able to tell myself this detective caper was all a lark," Thompson wrote.

"But then I saw the bullet hole. It was like a sudden glitch, stopping the Walter Mitty film in mid-sprocket hole. Whoever put that bullet hole in the door. I told myself, isn't going to care you're some kind of college professor."

Thompson said that being a philosopher did not make detection any easier.

"The skills of logic and deduction are not useful at all. Cases aren't puzzles. I don't get

Middle East News

Next U.S. president must deal with PLO — Neumann

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The next U.S. president must deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the pursuit of Middle East peace and conditions exist for this to occur, a former U.S. ambassador and Reagan administration adviser said Thursday.

Robert Neumann, who directed the State Department transition team when President Reagan took office in 1981, sharply criticised current U.S. policy and warned that "if we allow, as the present administration has done, events to drift, the situation is certain to get worse." "Whether the United States likes it or not, there is no substitute for the PLO," he said.

He and other scholars at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) released several new analyses in series designed to "infuse a strategic perspective" into the election debate on the U.S. international role.

They called for vigorous leadership by Reagan's successor and drastic shifts in many aspects of U.S. foreign policy. One report by CSIS analysts Debra van Opstal and Andrew Goldberg concluded U.S. security was now affected far more by regional turbulence and unconventional threats than by Soviet "expansionism."

22 remain missing after Nile boat mishap

CAIRO (AP) — Frogmen Friday fished out the body of a seventh Italian tourist from the Nile, two days after the cruise ship Nubia sank in southern Egypt during a storm, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

Nine Italian nationals and 13 Egyptians who were on the boat are still missing and presumed dead.

MENA quoted police General Ibrahim Bassiouny, head of security of Aswan, as saying that the rescue teams were having difficulty searching the upside-down, almost completely submerged vessel for the missing persons because of strong water currents in the area.

He said they would attempt to drag the vessel away from the currents and try to refloat it.

The Nubia capsized and sank during a sudden storm Wednesday afternoon near Aswan. It is half way between the famous tourist resorts of Luxor, 720 kilometres, and Aswan, 960 kilometres south of Cairo.

It was carrying 51 Italians and an Egyptian crew of 45. Thirty-five Italians and 27 Egyptians were rescued, suffering from minor wounds and shock. Search groups have found the bodies of seven Italians and five Egyptians, leaving nine Italians and 13 Egyptians missing, and presumed dead by police.

U.S. navy drops plan to replace Vincennes in Gulf

BAHRAIN (AP) — The U.S. navy has decided against dispatching another of its billion-dollar "Aegis" missile cruisers to the Gulf region to replace the USS Vincennes, military sources said Friday.

The sources, speaking on condition they not be identified, said the scheduled assignment of the USS Mobile Bay, a sister ship of the Vincennes, had been "postponed until further notice."

The Mobile Bay was scheduled to depart Friday from Mayport, Florida, to join the navy's joint task force Middle East, which includes 27 warships in the Gulf and the Arabian Sea.

Although the sources declined to be specific, they indicated the decision was related to an expected cutback in the size of the U.S. force after a ceasefire between Iraq and Iran goes into effect Aug. 20.

The sources said the Vincennes, which mistakenly shot down an Iranian civilian jetliner July 3, killing all 290 aboard, is now expected to remain on duty in the region until early September, by which time it should be clear whether the United Nations

sponsored ceasefire would hold. One officer, also asking not to be identified, said an end to the eight-year-old conflict would "sharpely reduce any need" for the navy to send another of its most sophisticated and controversial anti-aircraft defence warships to the region.

The Vincennes had been expected to leave for its home port in San Diego, California, in the next two weeks, in keeping with a policy under which ships serve about three months on duty with the joint task force Middle East.

The sources said that practice is "flexible" and refused to say why the Vincennes, which arrived in the region May 22, was being kept in the area longer than usual.

U.S. Defence Secretary Frank C. Carlucci reiterated this week that the present force of 27 warships, including 18 in the Gulf, would be sharply cut if the ceasefire remained in effect for a "prudent" period.

An official report on the July 3 downing of the Iranian A-300 Airbus by the Vincennes is expected to be released later this month.

Swedish police raid home of suspect in Greek ship attack

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Swedish security police have raided the home of an Arab alleged to have planned the deadly attack last month on a Greek cruise ship, the Aftonbladet newspaper reported Thursday.

Police spokesman Ingvar Eriksson confirmed the raid and said investigators also found four Kalashnikov assault rifles among a cache of weapons hidden in a forest a few kilometres from the home of the Arab.

Police believe the Arab was the operations chief of the Abu Nidal group, the paper said. Eriksson said he was believed to be one of nine people killed in the July 11 assault on the "City of Poros."

Eriksson identified the man as Samir Mohammad Kadar and said he was born in Lebanon in 1948.

Kadar, who described himself as an international businessman, lived in a Stockholm suburb since 1986 under the name of his first-born wife. The name is barred from publication under Swedish press laws, he said.

Aftonbladet said Kadar had been living in Stockholm since 1986, slipping into the coun-

try at a time when police were fully occupied with trying to solve the murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme.

Greek police have issued an international appeal for help in tracking two other suspects in connection with the City of Poros attack — Zayed Hussein Ahmad Ali, 36, and Reyad Samir Al Ahmad, 40, both believed to belong to the Abu Nidal group.

Aftonbladet quoted police sources as saying several Abu Nidal members were suspected to be living in Sweden.

Kadar's wife was completely ignorant of her husband's double life, Aftonbladet quoted the sources as saying.

The newspaper quoted police as accusing Kadar of being responsible for planning the 1985 attack on Rome's international airport when gunmen killed 13 people in the terminal building.

He is also believed to have been involved in organising a bomb attack on an Italian restaurant three months earlier, when 40 people were injured, Aftonbladet quoted police as saying.

Police declined comment.

Egypt hopes for return of POWs from Iran

BAHRAIN (R) — Egypt has asked the United Nations and Iraq to negotiate the release of several thousand Egyptians held by Iraq as prisoners of war, Arab diplomats said Friday.

Iraq had also pledged to end

"This is a vital issue (for Egypt) which we always bring up," a senior Egyptian official in the region told Reuters.

He said Cairo had officially asked Baghdad, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the International Committee of Red Cross to raise the issue at peace talks between Iraq and Iran.

The talks on ending the eight-year war are due to start in Geneva Aug. 25, five days after a ceasefire takes effect.

The United Nations ceasefire Resolution 598 includes a section on exchanging prisoners of war and these men are prisoners just like the Iraqis," the Egyptian official said.

Egypt says Iran holds a few thousand Egyptian prisoners, but no official figure is available.

In Cairo, the semi-official Al Ahram newspaper quoted an Iranian official at the United Nations as saying Tehran had told Perez de Cuellar that Tehran was willing to facilitate the handing over of the Egyptians.

Egypt has no diplomatic ties with Iran, which it has accused of financing anti-government extremist groups. It has also said that Tehran has not responded to Cairo's requests for information on the Egyptian prisoners.

About 1.5 million Egyptians live in Iraq and several thousand of them volunteered to fight on Baghdad's side in the war against Iran.

Egyptian Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala has repeatedly said that all Egyptians fighting for Iraq were volunteers and some had taken Iraqi citizenship.

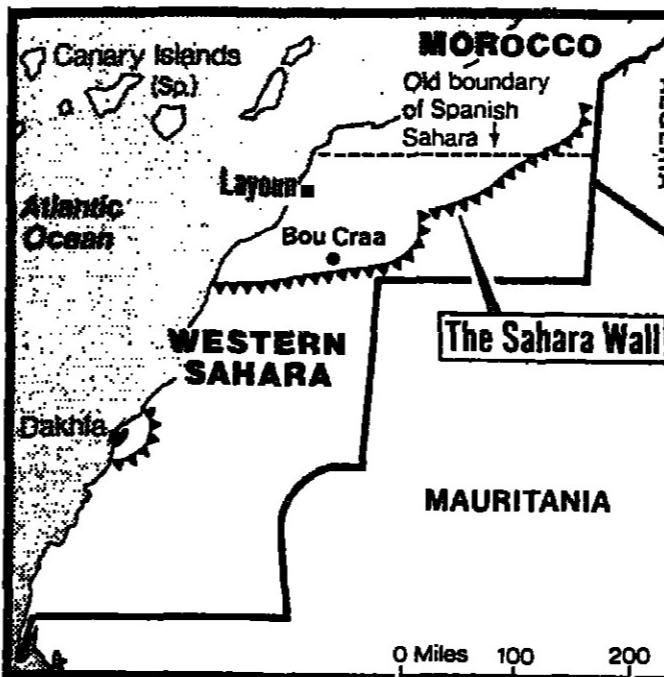
Many Israelis feel ties are stagnant, that Egypt is a reluctant partner and that President Hosni Mubarak's government feels compelled to balance its ties with Israel against more powerful interests in the Arab and Islamic World.

Ties are aggravated by a simmering dispute over the Israeli-held Sinai border beach of Taba, due to be resolved by arbitration Sept. 28 if a compromise is not negotiated before then.

Few incidents are reported along the long Sinai desert border, but Israel is worried about periodic Palestinian guerrilla crossings into Israel. Officials say there have been six incursions in the past year.

Things could be 'worse'

In recent interviews with Reuters, two men who know the Egypt-Israel relationship in-



Iran, Iraq reportedly enter deal over Kurds

DIVARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Iran and Iraq have each agreed to halt military support for Kurdish rebels fighting the other's government, according to Kurdish sources in Turkey.

Kurdish guerrillas who took refuge in Turkey during heavy fighting in northern Iraq this week said Tehran had cut supplies of arms and ammunition since early this month.

Iraqi Kurdish fighters, led by Massoud Barzani, controlled a broad swath of northern Iraq during the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq. The rebels, backed by Iraq, tied down large numbers of Iraqi troops.

Other Kurdish sources said Iran, which accepted a U.N. peace resolution last month, had cut support for Barzani in return for Iraq's promise to drop its backing for Iranian Kurdish rebels.

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Many Israelis feel ties are stagnant, that Egypt is a reluctant partner and that President Hosni Mubarak's government feels compelled to balance its ties with Israel against more powerful interests in the Arab and Islamic World.

Ties are aggravated by a simmering dispute over the Israeli-held Sinai border beach of Taba, due to be resolved by arbitration Sept. 28 if a compromise is not negotiated before then.

Few incidents are reported along the long Sinai desert border, but Israel is worried about periodic Palestinian guerrilla crossings into Israel. Officials say there have been six incursions in the past year.

Things could be 'worse'

In recent interviews with Reuters, two men who know the Egypt-Israel relationship in-

W. Sahara war may end soon

By Stephen Hughes
Reuter

RABAT — The war in the Western Sahara between Morocco and Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas could be over by Sept. 1 if both sides agree to accept the new peace proposals handed them Thursday by United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The secretary-general asked for a response by that date to the proposals which involve a ceasefire and a referendum to determine the future of the former Spanish colony.

The conflict has lasted more than 12 years but it has always been a small-scale war with few independent witnesses, foreign military attaches say.

"It has been more a war of words than a shooting war," said a veteran Western diplomat. He said Polisario attacks were invariably timed to coincide with political events related to the conflict.

"It's been a war we've heard a lot about but have never actually seen," he added, noting that the only independent witnesses have been journalists escorted by guerrillas to watch shells being lobbed over the Moroccan lines.

Polisario has also reported taking about 2,000 Moroccan prisoners but no exact count has ever been published.

Hundreds of Polisario communiques show there were apparently more soldiers killed than wounded. But one military analyst said in "any conventional war the ratio is usually five wounded for one killed."

In contrast Moroccan army headquarters has issued only a few dozen communiques, admitting

to fewer than 5,000 casualties and claiming to have knocked out many guerrillas.

Polisario has never revealed its casualties nor given any figures for the strength of its "People's National Liberation Army" which has vowed to wage "a war of attrition" to bring Morocco to its knees.

Polisario guerrillas have boasted they will liberate the Sahara, just as the Algerians defeated France and the Vietnamese evicted the United States with the war cry: "All the fatherland or martyrdom."

"The flaw in that is that neither France nor the United States had any business in those countries, whereas we are fighting in our own country," Moroccan official told Reuters.

Perez de Cuellar has reportedly told the Polisario strength range from 3,500 to 7,000 men equipped with Soviet-made tanks, personnel carriers and anti-aircraft missiles, plus British and Japanese four-wheel drive vehicles.

This small force has pinned down about 80,000 Moroccan troops equipped with French and American weapons, including advanced aircraft, deployed along a 1,500-kilometre line of defences snaking across the desert close to the Algerian and Mauritanian borders.

Details of the proposals are being kept confidential. But Perez de Cuellar said the proposals were the result of extensive discussions among the parties, so "they won't be extremely surprised" by his suggestions.

guerrilla attacks.

Before the wall was built, Morocco suffered its heaviest losses when guerrillas concentrated attacks on isolated outposts and wiped out the garrisons.

The Polisario's greatest victory was to force Mauritania to withdraw from the southern part of the territory ceded to it by an accord signed in Madrid in November 1975.

Twice the guerrillas attacked the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott whose small and poorly-equipped army was unable to police the country's vast desert. Mauritania's share of the desert was annexed by Rabat.

Completion of the wall in April 1987 gave Morocco control of more than two-thirds of the disputed territory, including all the towns, phosphate mines and the entire Atlantic coast.

The last major Moroccan-Polisario battles were in November 1987 just before a United Nations mission arrived to find out how a referendum could be held to settle the area's future.

AP adds: U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Thursday he hopes an independence referendum can be held for the territory next year.

The U.N. chief urged Morocco and the Polisario movement to respond to his detailed proposal by Sept. 1.

Perez de Cuellar commented shortly after presenting his plans for a ceasefire and subsequent referendum to representatives of Morocco and Polisario, as well as to the Organisation of African Unity, Algeria and Mauritania.

Details of the proposals are being kept confidential. But Perez de Cuellar said the proposals were the result of extensive discussions among the parties, so "they won't be extremely surprised" by his suggestions.

Tunisia plans for major currency liberalisation

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia plans to scrap foreign exchange controls and turn the dinar into a fully convertible currency by the mid-1990s, central bank governor Ismail Kheil has said.

Kheil, in an interview with Reuters, spelled out plans for the second stage of a far-reaching reform programme which will leave Tunisia with one of the most liberal economies in the Arab World.

"We are really in the process of changing the whole money market right now and we intend to create a foreign exchange market. This is our next step," he said.

Kheil said the government of President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali aimed to liberalise the economy by 1991 and would then focus on the currency.

A number of steps have been taken to prepare domestic banks for the challenge, he said.

Under recent reforms many Tunisians can now hold current accounts, there have been changes in domestic interest rates to increase inter-bank competition, and the central bank has been overhauled and given more independence.

"We want banks to be familiar dealing with foreign exchange. We are creating little by little a foreign exchange market within the country. This is a step because our aim is to make the

dinar a convertible currency," he said.

Setting out a step-by-step approach to reform, Kheil has maintained the abolition of currency restrictions was essential to attract foreign investors.

"It is my conviction that this (restrictions) has been one of the more serious handicaps for attracting capital," he said.

"On the psychological level when you say to an investor this is a free country and you can bring in whatever you want and then take it out again, it really makes a big difference," he noted.

More significantly, he said investment in export-oriented industry had shown a big increase. Businessmen were now confident after the uncertainty that marked the final years in power of former president Habib Bourguiba.

"There is a very good political and economic climate and the business climate is very pleased to see that situation," Kheil said.

Kheil said Tunisia, which turned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in 1986 after dwindling oil reserves left it with a severe cash shortage, had met all IMF targets and there were no plans for any more loans.

Customs revenue increases

AMMAN (J.T.) — The customs authorities in Jordan collected JD 82,873,588 in duty on imported products in the first half of 1988, registering JD 5 million increase over the same period of 1987, according to Al Ra'i Arabic newspaper.

The paper said that the Customs Department considered this increase as an indication of a new upsurge in the country's economic activity.

Government to issue new policies on investments

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government will shortly announce a set of resolutions and decisions designed to ensure better investment facilities and to offer more incentives for investors in economic, tourism, agricultural and industrial sectors, Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Tabbaa announced Thursday.

He said that at the same time, the government will do its best to find new markets for national products especially through agreements concluded with other Arab countries.

The end of the Gulf war will no doubt open for Jordan the opportunity of selling products to the Iraqi market and therefore concerted efforts on the part of all sectors is now required if this process is to achieve success, the minister said at a reception held at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade will remain committed to all declared measures intended to simplify routine and cut down on formalities in trade deals, and will examine existing laws and regulations and previous instructions with a view to updating them whenever this is beneficial for the national interest, Tabbaa noted.

Tabbaa, who is former president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) said that the federation will continue to contribute towards stimulating the national economy and the development process.

Addressing the meeting also was FJCC President Mohammad Asfour who urged the public and private sectors to cooperate for the development of the national economy.

Because the prime is used to calculate a wide range of fixed- and adjustable-rate loans, the increase is likely to pinch the pockets of American consumers who already have seen borrowing costs rise in recent months.

"It will slow the economy, but it won't stop it in its tracks," said Robert Brusca, chief financial economist for the investment firm Nikko Securities Co. International. "That's a healthy thing right now."

Indian pilots flock to join foreign airlines

BOMBAY (R) — More than a quarter of the pilots working for India's flag carriers, Air India and Indian Airlines, have applied for better-paid jobs with three foreign airlines, the Indian pilots' guild said Thursday.

"Given a chance, everyone would like to quit," said guild vice-president Shankar Roy in an interview.

Out of 1,300 pilots employed by the two Indian airlines, 350 have applied for advertised jobs with Gulf Air, Singapore Airlines and Emirates Airlines, he said.

Roy said there was a big shortage of senior pilots and Gulf Air, for instance, was offering up to 95,000 rupees (\$6,800) a month to pilots.

That compares with the 6,000 rupees (\$430) a month, after taxes but before special allowances, of Air India pilots, Roy said.

Gulf International Bank announces profit increase

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Gulf International Bank (GIB) wholly and equally owned by seven Gulf governments announced Thursday that it achieved an after-tax profit of \$25.4 million for the first six months of this year.

GIB, an international merchant and commercial bank, said in a press statement the profit presented an increase of 14.3 per cent over the unaudited interim results for the comparable 1987 period.

Abdullah Saif, chairman of the bank's board of directors said that the half-year results reflect an improvement in earnings "through sustained penetration of trade finance markets and a strong performance from treasury operations."

After a deduction for loan loss provisions, interest and fees on loans amounted to \$179.5 million, an 11.8 per cent increase on the prior period, while net interest, fees, and other operating income rose by 7.5 per cent to \$52.6 million, the statement said.

Strict budgetary controls contributed to a reduction in total expenses of just over one per cent compared to the previous period.

The statement was issued after the results were reviewed by the bank's board of directors meeting at the GIB headquarters in this Gulf island state.

GIB has branches in London, New York and Singapore, with representative offices in Tokyo and Frankfurt. It was established in 1975 with authorised capital of \$265 million by the governments of Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Until June 30 this year, the total assets were \$8.8 billion and shareholders' equity amounted to \$594 million.

The bank's capital resources will be strengthened further by a capital increase of \$111.4 million to be issued, subscribed and paid-in before the end of the year, the statement added.

GIB is the second largest offshore banking unit in Bahrain, the central Gulf state that developed into a major offshore banking centre in the oil price heyday of the mid-1970s. The Gulf region sits on about a third of the world's proven oil reserves.

Arab Banking Corporation reports \$68m net profit

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — The Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) has announced an operating profit of \$104 million for the first half of 1988.

The corporation said that after allowing for general and specific loan loss provisions of \$28 million, and minority interests of \$8 million, the net pre-tax profit of the corporation was \$68 million as at the end of June.

The group's total assets rose from \$15.48 billion in June 1987 to \$17.28 billion in June 1988 — an increase of 12 per cent. Total assets at the end of 1987 were \$17.54 billion.

The corporation continues to provide against debts for the less developed countries according to its own internal guidelines, an official statement said.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday rates
Local sell/buy rates in fils

Belgian franc (for 10)	92.8	Saudi riyal	100.0	101.0
Dutch guilder	172.5/	Syrian lira (for JD 1)	100.0/	102.0
French franc	57.7/	Lebanese lira (for JD 1)	880.0/	900.0
Italian lira (for 100)	26.4/	Iraqi dinar	440.0/	470.0
Japanese yen (for 100)	276.5/	Kuwaiti dinar	132.0/	134.0
Swedish crown	57.0/	Egyptian pound	160.0/	165.0
Swiss franc	232.5/	Qatari riyal	103.0/	104.0
U.K. sterling pound	373.2/	UAE dirham	102.0/	103.0
U.S. dollar	194.5/	Omani riyal	980.0/	990.0
Deutschmark	196.4	Bahraini dinar	990.5/	1000.0

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	663191	Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation	603507
Ministry of Supply	601211	Free Zones Corporation	542001
Ministry of Finance	636321	Amman Financial Market	660170
Ministry of Planning	644466	Amman Chamber of Commerce	661615
Ministry of Labour	663186	Amman Chamber of Agriculture	630391
Ministry of Communications	630151	Association of Banks in Jordan	662258
Ministry of Electricity	630151	Jordan Association of Insurance Companies	647370
Central Bank of Jordan	630301	General Statistics Department	846171
Amman Customs Department	772181	Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation	721194
Social Security Corporation	643000	Jordanian Business Association	680463

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

One Sterling	1.7110/20	U.S. dollar	1.2205/15	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.8810/20	Deutschmarks	2.1225/35	Dutch guilders
	1.8810/20		2.1225/35	Swiss francs
	1.5755/65		39.40/43	Belgian francs
	6.3770/3820		1395/1396	French francs
	133.15/25		133.15/25	Italian lire
	6.4590/4640		6.4590/4640	Japanese yen
	6.8700/50		6.8700/50	Swedish crowns
	7.2010/60		7.2010/60	Norwegian crowns
	428.60/429.10		428.60/429.10	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The share market closed higher for the first time in two days but profit-taking ahead of the weekend and nervousness about Wall Street's performance dragged prices from their highs. The All Ordinaries index was up 6.4 at 1,623.2.

TOKYO — Share prices closed slightly higher but failed to hold on to morning peaks as investors took a wait-and-see attitude. The Nikkei index rose 48.53 to 27,834.51.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed steady on light bargain-hunting by overseas fund managers with trading overshadowed by rumours of an imminent increase in local interest rates. The Hang Seng index was up 5.65 to 2,600.93.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed slightly lower due to lack of follow-through buying support and profit-taking. The Straits Times Industrial index fell 3.22 to 1,132.10.

BOMBAY — Share prices dropped further on nervous selling when trading resumed after a day's disruption. Operators feared the exchange authorities would take drastic steps to curb speculation. Tata Steel fell 6.25 rupees to 807.5.

FRANKFURT — Shares firmed slightly in quiet business in what was seen as a technical adjustment before the weekend rather than fundamental strength. The Dax index rose 5.42 to 1,173.56.

ZURICH — After two days of declines the market closed little changed, as Wall Street firms Thursday night. Towards the close the All Share Swiss index was up 1.9 at 890.4.

PARIS — Prices closed slightly up but below the day's highs in moderate trading ahead of the long weekend any weekend.

LONDON — Shares were mostly firm in late-afternoon business, with a modest spell of buying for the new account helping to support prices. At 1442 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was up seven at 1,842.2.

NEW YORK — Stocks steadied at lower levels in mid-morning, after falling in line with the bond market on a higher than expected "core inflation" rate in the U.S. producer price index report. The Dow was down 11 at 2,028.

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Sein Lwin quits amid revolt

BANGKOK (Agencies) — Burmese leader Sein Lwin has resigned as chairman of the Socialist ruling party and state president after five straight days of nationwide violent demonstrations demanding his removal, the state radio said Friday.

No successor was named for Sein Lwin, but the radio said a special meeting of both the central committee of the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) and the People's Assembly has been called.

The broadcast said the 92nd meeting of the party's central committee accepted Sein Lwin's resignation as the party chairman, by far the most powerful political position in the country. It said the council of state accepted his resignation as president of the republic and from membership of the People's Assembly.

The broadcast gave no reason for the resignation.

The 64-year-old former brigadier took over chairmanship of the

BSPP from veteran leader Ne Win July 26.

Official reports say 98 people have died since Sunday but diplomats in Rangoon estimate that between 500 and 1,500 may have been killed in the bloody riots that swept Rangoon and all major towns in the country of 58 million people.

Of the death toll a diplomat said: "There were perhaps 300 killed in Rangoon and 300 in Mandalay and nearby Sagaing."

Official reports from Sagaing Thursday said 31 people were killed when a crowd of 5,000 people attacked a police station and police opened fire.

The latest killings reported by Rangoon radio were at Sitwe Port, the second biggest city in

Arakan state on the Indian Ocean, where it said three members of the security forces were beaten to death.

Diplomats contacted from Bangkok said there were increasing, though unconfirmed, reports of soldiers defecting and joining the demonstrators, but they said in the tumult of the conflict such reports should be treated with caution.

They also reported widespread rumours that ethnic Karen guerrillas, one of a dozen rebel groups fighting in eastern Burma, had moved into Pa-An, capital Karen state.

This would be the first sign that the guerrillas were preparing to exploit the unrest, hitting back after retreating before army campaigns in recent years.

The radio denied reports based on accounts by Thai officials that the southernmost town of Kow-song had been taken over by demonstrators.

"There were some disturb-

ances in Kowsong yesterday (Thursday) but the town remains calm due to systematic control by the authorities concerned," the radio said.

Thai officials at Ranong, a 20-minute ferry ride from the Burmese town across the Pakhan River, said demonstrators had seized the police station, the customs office, the town hall and the post office.

A Western diplomat Thursday said demonstrators roamed about the town freely, with the army taking no action.

A Western diplomat said Thursday it was difficult to obtain a precise casualty toll because soldiers and protesters were fighting in a "battle for the bodies."

"When someone is killed (the protesters) try to get it, so they can display the bodies, and the government tries to get it to cremate it" to erase any evidence of deaths, he said, on condition of not being identified.

Armed Forces Commander Sao Maung declared over the radio Thursday that the army would continue stern measures. He said trouble-makers had infiltrated protest marches, and "the people are now facing anarchy of the violence-makers."

But Prime Minister Tun Tin had also said Thursday that "the government will seriously consider legitimate requests of the people... in accordance with the law."

He said that as promised, the government would urgently carry out economic reforms to boost living conditions, such as privatising some sectors of the economy and permitting private foreign investment.

The radio said water supplies to Rangoon were cut for four hours Thursday after a transformer at Yegu pumping station near the Kabaya Pagoda in the northern suburbs was put out of action by "destructive elements."



Oscar Arias Sanchez

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica said he had spoken "with my heart in my hand" in asking Cuban President Fidel Castro for help in bringing peace to Central America.

Arias, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize last year for his efforts to halt Central America's violence, met Castro for 1½ hours Wednesday.

They were among seven Latin American leaders in Quito for the inauguration of President Rodrigo Borja, a moderate leftist who pledged a non-aligned foreign policy.

Arias Thursday said he urged Castro to use his influence with Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista leaders to persuade them to keep

U.S. House votes for anti-Pretoria sanctions

WASHINGTON (R) — The House of Representatives has voted to impose sweeping new sanctions on South Africa in an action that will probably stand as a symbol of disapproval of white minority rule — at least while the Reagan presidency lasts.

But the bill, which would cut off virtually all trade between the two countries and American investment in South Africa, faces an uncertain fate in the Senate and will certainly be vetoed if it lands on President Reagan's desk.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said: "Now we'll have to wait and see what South Africa's reaction is."

Pretoria could take similar action to Argentina's and expel the Argentine consul in South Africa, he added.

A foreign ministry spokesman said the seminar broached political topics and was considered by the government "an intolerable intrusion in Argentina's foreign policy."

Aspirin can save heart attack victims

LONDON (R) — Combined use of aspirin and a clot-dissolving drug can save the lives of tens of thousands of heart attack victims each year, according to doctors who carried out a worldwide study on coronary care.

The study, he said "every day" of his potentially short tenure "will be important, because the process of law enforcement is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week, year-round proposition and I'm anxious and enthusiastic about getting on the job."

Thornburgh likely will be able to concentrate solely on department programmes, unlike Meese, who spent considerable time defending his personal conduct.

Meese's ethical behaviour was investigated by independent counsel James McKay, who concluded that the attorney general "probably" broke the law. Meese consistently denied that.

It involved more than 17,000 patients from 417 hospitals in 16 countries.

Republican committee tries to avoid SDI fight

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Republican platform writers turn to defence and foreign policy Friday to wrap up their pre-convention work, trying to highlight George Bush's experience and avoid a fight over the "Star Wars" anti-missile system.

The 106-member platform committee finished with the domestic chapter of the 30,000-word document Thursday after calling for an expensive loophole for the oil industry to be reopened and engaging in another bitter tangle over AIDS testing.

But the more moderate party faithful opted not to disturb Bush's plans for a peaceful convention despite their dissent on a variety of issues in what is mostly a conservative document.

The warning was contained in a statement issued after the U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill.

Arias seeks Cuban help for peace

their promises for more freedom in Nicaragua, including releasing political prisoners and lifting censorship of the news media.

Arias said at a news conference that to achieve peace in Central America, "the support and effort of many people are needed, and Fidel Castro is one of them."

He said he told Castro that Castro "had a very important role to play if we want to achieve peace in the region."

"I have spoken to him with my heart in my hand because I believe that there are 27 million human beings in Central America who desire and deserve to live in peace," Arias said.

In Latin America, the phrase "heart in hand" means to speak very sincerely, to be very candid, regardless of possible consequences.

Arias said "nothing concrete" was achieved in the meeting. He said he regretted not having more time to talk with the leader of Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista leaders to persuade them to keep

COLUMN 10

Prostitution ring has large clientele

SAN JOSE, California (R) — A raid on a California prostitution ring uncovered a computerised listing of clients containing more than 40,000 names, police said Wednesday. The illicit business, which was spread across six counties and employed about 70 prostitutes at a time, had been operating since the early 1970s, investigators said. They said the women charged clients between \$200 and \$275 an hour. "The figures are staggering," said prosecutor Paul Siedel. "They kept all the business information in computer files and the records are very detailed."

Grave of baby dinosaurs found

PEKING (AP) — Scientists from China and Canada said Thursday they had unearthed a mass grave of baby dinosaurs apparently buried during a Gobi desert sandstorm 75 million years ago. Dr. Philip Currie, of the Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology in Alberta, Canada, said the joint team excavated the skulls of five sheep-sized baby pinacosaurus, a type of Ankylosaur or armoured dinosaur, in the wastelands of southern inner Mongolia. He said they found a sixth baby on the last day of their summer-long expedition, and "it appears likely there are a number of other specimens." One adult, which in life was "about the size of an extremely heavy bull," was also discovered nearby.

McCartney: book on Lennon trash

LONDON (AP) — Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney was quoted Thursday as saying a new book on the late John Lennon, which alleges that Lennon had a homosexual affair with the group's manager, Brian Epstein, is "a piece of trash." The London newspaper Daily Mail Tuesday began daily serialisation of extracts from "The Lives of John Lennon" by Albert Goldman.

The book, which is to be released Aug. 2 in Britain, is also being serialised in the United States. The paper quoted McCartney as saying, "With the exception of his close relatives, I knew John longer than anyone. I would have thought that once in all that time there would have been a suggestion of the homosexuality referred to by Goldman."

San Marino issues anti-AIDS stamps

SAN MARINO (AP) — In what it describes as the first initiative of its kind in the world, this tiny republic is issuing four postage stamps dedicated to the fight against AIDS. The government said Thursday the stamps, due to come out in the next few days, were prepared in conjunction with an international congress on AIDS to be held in San Marino in October. "The set carries a warning but at the same time hope," a government statement said. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is a disease in which a virus attacks the body's immune system, leaving victims susceptible to wide variety of infections and cancers.

Politician swims 28.4 kilometres

ORANJESTAD, Aruba (AP) — Thousands of jubilant Arubans greeted a member of parliament who swam 28.4 kilometres from Venezuela to Aruba braving strong currents to raise money for a swimming pool in his hometown. Government spokesman Mike Eman said it was the first time anyone had swum the Caribbean Sea between the two countries. Roly Bisslik, 38, a lawmaker for the ruling Aruban People's Party and a swimming instructor, made the crossing Sunday in 10 hours and 28 minutes. On reaching shore, Bisslik kissed the ground and merrymakers showered him with champagne and sang the national anthem.

Murderer worked as probation officer

LOS ANGELES (R) — A convicted murderer arrested 14 years after escaping from prison lived a model life and worked as a charity organiser and probation officer during his freedom, police said Tuesday. "He was married and raising a family of three children. He was living a model life." Detective John Petievich said of 37-year-old Arthur Bembury, who was apprehended Monday. Bembury was sentenced in 1971, to life imprisonment in Massachusetts for shooting the mother of a girl he was dating. Petievich said. He was allowed a week-end leave from prison three years later and never went back.

U.S. Senate approves Thornburgh

WASHINGTON (AP) — Richard L. Thornburgh says he's eager to begin work as the United States' 76th attorney general, but is not counting on keeping the job if George Bush becomes the next American president.

"I look on this as a six-month assignment," Thornburgh said Thursday after the Senate unanimously confirmed him as successor to the controversial Edwin Meese III for the nation's top law enforcement job.

The former Republican governor of Pennsylvania said in a television interview that he'll "let the future take care of itself" even if Vice President Bush is elected.

Thornburgh, 56, already has told Senators that he's loyalist to President Ronald Reagan, declaring last week, "My agenda is my agenda."

Last week, Thornburgh said that fighting the "scourge of narcotics" would be his top priority, but he also promised a vigorous battle against organised crime, public corruption and white-collar crime.

Thursday, he said "every day" of his potentially short tenure "will be important, because the process of law enforcement is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week, year-round proposition and I'm anxious and enthusiastic about getting on the job."

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South Korea agrees to march with North at Seoul Olympics

SEOUL (R) — South Korea agreed Friday to march with North Korean athletes at the Olympic opening ceremony if Pyongyang reverses its decision to boycott the games.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) proposed Thursday, in another appeal to North Korea to take part in the games, that delegations from the two Koreas march side by side in a symbolic gesture.

They would be preceded by a single Olympic flag and each

would carry their own national flag.

"We wholeheartedly welcome the IOC proposal and hope it will be realised," said Kim Chong-ha, president of South Korea's National Olympic Committee.

North Korea has said it will boycott the games because the IOC has failed to meet its demand to co-host them.

It has rejected as insufficient a compromise offer that it host all or part of five sports, including the archery and table tennis.

The South Korean Red Cross

Friday called on North Korea to take urgent steps to arrange contacts between an estimated 10 million family members separated by the 1950-53 Korean war.

South Korean Red Cross chief Kim Sang-Hyup issued a statement urging the Northern Red Cross to resume stalled talks aimed at reunifying the separated family.

The South has unilaterally begun accepting requests from family members who wish to have contacts with their relatives in the North.

It is encouraging," he said Monday.

Klein heads a project called the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, or SETI, that is planning to mount an intensified search for radio signals from civilisations that may exist on planets orbiting distant stars.

Programmes run by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, by Harvard University, and others have listened for intelligence-directed radio signals for more than 20 years, but only a small fraction of the vast universe, and the many radio frequencies that must be monitored have actually been checked.

Searches in the past "have only scratched the surface," said Klein.

The new equipment would be 10 million times more thorough than present equipment, he said, noting, "in the first few

minutes we would be able to match all of the searches that were done before."

But even with the new devices the job is immense, said Frank Drake, chairman of a SETI committee of the astronomical union and an astronomer at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

"Many people think the project should succeed in the next year or two," he said. "That's probably not going to happen."

The universe is so huge and the cosmic haystack so large, it will take us decades."

Drake added: "The consequences of success are so great that it's worth dealing with the problems."

The theory behind the SETI work is that because there are billions of galaxies, each with billions of stars, the odds are good that the conditions that permitted life to evolve on Earth must exist elsewhere.

If so, then intelligent life

Discoveries encourage search for intelligent life

By Paul Recer
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The discovery of new planets and of complex organic chemicals in comets is encouraging astronomers to intensify their search of the universe for intelligent life beyond the Earth.

"The circumstantial evidence is mounting every day" that intelligent life could have developed elsewhere in the universe, said Michael Klein, manager of a U.S. space agency research effort.

"It is encouraging," he said Monday.

Klein said discoveries announced last week that planet-like objects have been found orbiting distant stars, and that organic chemicals thought to be the precursors to life exist in comets support fundamental theories about life evolving from cosmic chemistry.

"That is the circumstantial evidence that life exists else-